

## Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



1.9  
En 637

E-38

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY 9.

April 11, 1916.

Brief Information on  
DAMAGE BY TERMITES TO WOODWORK AND FLOORING IN BUILDINGS.

Damage by termites to woodwork in buildings is common in the southern and eastern states and often serious damage is done before the presence of the insects is discovered, as the injury is hidden.

Thorough examination should be made at once as to the extent of the damage already done. These insects always infest buildings from an outside source, their entrance being gained through the ground by way of wooden beams or joists in contact with the ground or even up over stone foundations. Examination of the foundation timbers should be made to determine the approximate point of entrance of the insects and the extent of the damage. It may be necessary to tear up the flooring to do this.

Foundation timbers found damaged should be removed and the ground where they were set drenched with kerosene or some petroleum oil. Foundation timbers impregnated with coal-tar creosote should replace the infested material. The insects may have entered the house by means of the support of porching or steps which should be removed if damaged. The damaged interior woodwork of the building should be removed and replaced with new.

If the foundation of the building is of brick or stone look for long earthen tubes, about the diameter of a pencil, constructed on the surface of the wall from the ground to the woodwork. Drenching the ground where these tubes originate with kerosene will afford relief. Any decaying wood in the ground or partially rotted posts nearby should be removed.

Efforts should be mainly directed to prevent the insects from attaining access to the woodwork by substituting foundations of rock or concrete or protecting the foundation timbers by impregnation of the wood with coal-tar creosote.

We do not advise fumigation as it has not proven effectual.

A. D. HOPKINS,

Forest Entomologist.

Prepared by  
J. E. Bryden.

